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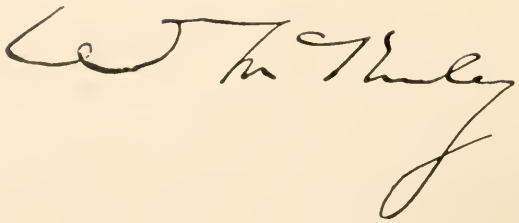
Memorial to the late
President McKinley

Oct. 1901



The Buffalo Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, considered it most fitting to make its first Chapter meeting after the great tragedy of 1901

A Memorial Day

to the late

William McKinley,

President of the United States,

to whom the allegiance of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, is due, as chief and head of its patriotic organization.

Tributes to his character, in its Christian, social, and official aspects, presented by members of the Chapter on that occasion, are here published by order of the Chapter.

MR. HUTCHESON
3 Ja '03

ON that black day when he who loved so well,
Had sought the presence of Supremest Love,
And naught remained us but to shut from sight
His dear, familiar semblance ; in that hour,
A wave of mourning girdle[illegible].
But here among his people where he lay,
From East to West the solemn silence fell
That heard the beating of a Nation's heart.
So to his memory would we consecrate
Our year's first meeting. So, with reverence, would
We hush away the din of outer life,
With that same unity of heart-felt love,
And offer these sincerest tributes to
A manhood full of light, and, prism-wise,
All rich with vari-colored glow ; to one
Whose well-lived life, whose death so undismayed,
Shine like God's bow of promise in our sky.

Edwina Spencer.

Historian,
The Buffalo Chapter, D. A. R.

Personal Reminiscences of President's Day.

PRESIDENT'S DAY, September 5, 1901, will long be remembered as one of the brightest and happiest days of the summer's long list of Pan-American Exposition State or special days.

No one could foresee the sad ending of the day that was to follow; there was a certain animation, a hush of expectancy, a something, I know not what, in the very air, that morning, and as the crowd began to gather within the grounds of the Exposition, it seemed that the world and all its family were out for a holiday, on pleasure bent, to give welcome to our honored guest.

The warmth and brightness of the summer, with its flowers and cloudless skies, combined with the haze of early autumn, made an indescribably beautiful setting for the wealth of decoration in flags of all nations and varicolored bunting, the red, white and yellow, the colors of the Pan-American Exposition, sharing the honor with our own national red, white and blue. With the added attractions of a military display in honor of our President, one could not imagine a more perfect or more beautiful "fête day."

Carriages containing the members of the Diplomatic Corps, arriving early at the Grand Esplanade, were wel-

comed by the Chairman and members of the Entertainment Committee, and places in the Tribunes were assigned them. Here we awaited the coming of the presidential party.

Leaving the home of Mr. Milburn, President of the Pan-American Exposition, in the morning at eleven o'clock, the President was escorted by a body of mounted troops to the Lincoln Parkway Gate. There the party was met by the entire military contingent of the Government on the grounds, the two local regiments of the National Guard, and the Marine Band of Washington. The parade then formed and marched through the Triumphal Causeway to the Tribunes erected on the West Esplanade.

When the President arrived with Mrs. McKinley, he with tenderness assisted her faltering footsteps from the carriage to her place next his own on the platform, from where he delivered the formal address of the day.

President Milburn made the introduction in a most impressive manner. He stood waiting until the applause had all died away, and the audience had become quiet, then merely mentioned the words, "The President."

With close attention Mrs. McKinley followed every word uttered by the President, whose oration upon that day will be of historical interest throughout the years to come.

At the close of the President's address, Mrs. McKinley, whose feeble health prevented her taking further part in the exercises, was escorted to a carriage by Dr. Rixey and driven back to Mr. Milburn's house; at the same

time the President entered his carriage and, with his escort, was driven to the Stadium, where the military review was held.

Upon arrival there, the sound of the martial music and the plaudits of the crowd seemed to inspire the President with enthusiasm. Marching with the general in command, he entered into the spirit of the affair, and with long, sweeping strides, and the springing step of a boy, made the entire tour of the great arena of the Stadium.

Having been invited to join the ladies of the President's party, I was with them in the Reviewing Stand, and when the President joined us there, he said that this reminded him of his old army days when he was "The Major," by which title Mrs. McKinley always loved to address him.

President McKinley had a remarkable memory for names and faces, which greatly added to his popularity. When I was presented to him, he spoke of having met me the previous winter in Washington, when I was there as the official representative of the Pan-American Exposition and of "The Buffalo Chapter," to present an invitation to the National Society, "Daughters of the American Revolution," and to its honored head, the President of the United States, to be present and unite in celebrating "Flag-Day" as D. A. R. Day at the Exposition; June 14, 1901, was the day selected, and the event was celebrated with great success. I was also Vice-Regent of Buffalo Chapter and delegate to the National Continental Con-

gress, Daughters of the American Revolution, then in session in Washington. With a pleasant word of greeting, the President said, "Is it well with the Buffalo Chapter, Mrs. Horton?" I was glad to be able to reply, "It is well with the Buffalo Chapter, Mr. President."

At the close of the review, President McKinley was driven to the New York State Building, where a luncheon was given in his honor by the New York State Commissioners.

At the same hour, the ladies of the President's party were the guests of the Board of Women Managers at the Woman's Building, Exposition Grounds, at a luncheon given in honor of Mrs. McKinley.

Following these luncheons, the President and entire party were driven to the Government Building. Here a private reception was given in honor of the President.

As Chairman of the Committee on Entertainments and Ceremonies, I was invited by the Government officials, by whom this reception was arranged, to represent the Board of Women Managers, and, in company with the ladies of the Diplomatic Corps, was present at this reception.

I had the honor of standing next to the President and could not but be impressed by the courteous and affable manner, the pleasant smile, the friendly hand-clasp, showing the innate gentleness of spirit and Christian love for humanity that was a part of the being of this noble man. These very traits in the President's character made it pos-

sible for the assassin to accomplish his cruel design. He attempted to enter the building at this private reception, but was prevented from so doing, as admission could only be obtained by card.

President McKinley requested that a public reception should be held, so that he might have an opportunity of meeting the people, the general public, to whom he belonged ; thus was given an occasion for the assassin, under the pretense of showing respectful homage to a high official, to strike down the idol of the American people.

The day after came the trip to Niagara Falls. The presidential party and a few friends were the guests of the officials of the Exposition. In the early morning hours we enjoyed a drive through the park to the railway station at the Exposition grounds, where we awaited the coming of the presidential party. We were not long kept waiting, for the President soon arrived with Mrs. McKinley, walking from the carriage to the drawing-room car in readiness for them. The President greeted all those present with the dignified and gracious manner which was characteristic of him.

On that trip from Buffalo to the Falls at every station en route were crowds to greet the President. Men stood with uncovered heads, and women and little children showed happy greetings in their faces for the man they delighted to honor, the man they held in loving reverence.

Arriving at the Falls, we drove in carriages to the center of the great bridge, where the law which prevents the

President of the United States from leaving this country while in office interfered with the trip to the Canadian side for a view of the Falls from that point. The carriages then turned and drove around Goat Island, the President greatly enjoying the beautiful views of the great Niagara that opened up through the wooded vistas of the island.

After luncheon at the Falls, we returned to the train, and, on arrival at the Exposition Grounds, the President was driven from the railway station to the Temple of Music, stopping a few moments at the Spanish Mission Chapel. At the Temple of Music the public reception was held.

An incident connected with the reception will illustrate the kind thoughtfulness of the President. At the luncheon given in honor of Mrs. McKinley by the Board of Women Managers, Pan-American Exposition, a young woman having a very beautiful voice sang several selections most acceptably. The young ladies of the President's family expressed themselves to me as being very much pleased. I said to them, "Remember that this young girl is in need of recognition of her ability as an artist, and is just beginning the life which she is hopeful will lead to success and renown in her profession. Any kind word or help you may be able to give her will be appreciated." Upon hearing this, the President asked to have her sing at the reception in the Temple of Music. She was standing ready to begin her selection, and the violinist stood with

uplifted bow, to begin the obligato with which he was to accompany her, when the sad ending came to the scene at the Temple of Music, and to that long-to-be-remembered time, in the terrible tragedy that robbed the Nation of its President.

As "Daughters of the American Revolution," we aim to instill into the hearts of all that spirit of true Americanism which was bequeathed to us by our forefathers; and had such spirit been universal among the people, the tragedy that occurred within the borders of the Queen City of the Empire State would never have occupied a page in the history of this commonwealth. The echo of sweetest music, or eloquent, patriotic oratory would alone have reverberated through the ornate arches of our beautiful Temple of Music. And thus it would have been impossible for a pistol ball, by the hand of an assassin, to have been aimed at the beloved, revered, and honored foremost citizen of this Republic, the late President McKinley.

Mrs. John Miller Horton,

First Vice-Regent "The Buffalo Chapter," D. A. R.

Chairman of the Committee on Entertainments and Ceremonies,

Board of Women Managers, Pan-American Exposition.

McKinley's Characteristics.

A STANDARD has been made manifest in a human character in our midst which humbles one and all. As it elevates mind and spirit to gaze upon mountain heights, so does it, and much more, elevate, clarify, and bless to see clearly and apprehend lovingly a great and noble character. Character is life's highest attainment; it comes not all at once, but is the result of the daily, hourly intent; and before him in whose every word, every act, and, indeed, whole personality at a crucial time one feels poise, purpose, gentleness, strength, faith and love, one yields heart reverence and receives a blessing.

You all know that President McKinley represented all that and much more, and with me feel, I am sure, that to have had his spirit pass from earth to heaven from our very midst renders our tie to him peculiarly close, and the radiance from his beautifully balanced life shines clear and luminous for each one of us.

It is only to express for all the tribute which each woman holds in her heart for him, that I say a few words at this time.

We are privileged to look over the span of his entire life as it stretches back through fifty-nine years of consistent endeavor. The uprightness, the fortitude, which

characterized McKinley can be traced to his Scotch-Irish descent ; his patriotism finds its roots in that of his great-grandfather, who fought for the liberties of this country in the revolutionary war. His gentleness, kindliness, sympathy, were the flower of his master passion, love for God, — who taught him that all men are brethren in Christ Jesus.

The man who bore himself so calmly in the terrible stress of surprise and pain, when struck by an assassin's hand, was one whose discipline of self began long before. A boy of eighteen, he joined the Twenty-third Ohio Volunteers, and remained throughout the war at the front with the exception of one short furlough. Many acts of bravery are told of McKinley, but one early in the war will picture the brave, quiet heroism of the soldier boy. While Sergeant, and acting in the Commissary Department, his regiment, at daylight, without breakfast, went into the battle of Antietam. About three in the afternoon, when the men were nearly fainting for lack of nourishment, young McKinley carried food to each soldier up to the firing line. Could anything reveal a better blending of courage and calm ?

McKinley loved his friends, and was loved in return as few men are loved. Every one respected his manhood and his high sense of honor. His gentle but strong personality rousing no antagonisms, combined with the confidence in the man which it inspired, brought him to Congress, where he remained for seven terms, followed

by two terms as Governor of Ohio. Finally, he was called to the highest honor, and in 1896 he was elected President, the representative of the People of these United States. Truly was he the type of our very best citizenship. Belonging to a country governed by the people, he believed in the people, and sought to know them, and to guide, rather than to force, national policy. I have hardly time to allude to the qualities which made him a successful politician in the true sense of that much-abused word, though they are all accounted for in the three words with which Hamilton Mabie defines strong, effectual life-qualities,—"Balance, harmony, and restraint." True are they of McKinley, if of any man. Balance of interests, of energies left its stamp in the lines of his face; and the right adjustment which men recognized in him between the man and his opportunities, led to a harmony with men and things which was a marked characteristic of this man of peace; and restraint, that is, patience, judgment, steadiness, were elements in his success and power, recognized by all. O what a man was that for friend, for country!

That he regarded his political responsibilities as trusts and not ambitions is revealed in the quiet words he spoke to Cleveland at the time of his first inaugural. They were sitting side by side, the throng surging about them, bands playing, soldiers marching in his honor, when he leaned over and said quietly to Cleveland, "What an impressive thing it is to assume tremendous responsibilities!" The

tone, the manner, the words revealed the true heart of the man. Of them Cleveland said, in his words of tribute in Princeton the day of McKinley's funeral, "I have always thought since then that I was in possession of the key to his manner of administration." He was by nature conservative, and yet he was ready to march forward along new and untried ways of national life, because the people were ready and because he believed that it was God's call to these United States to go forward into a larger mission in this His world.

Of his tender devotion to his wife there is no need for me to speak. We all honor him for it, and feel that the sacredness of home and home love has been emphasized by his life-long faithfulness, as no church council, no legal code, could do. The largeness of his nature shines in the fact that his home-life was never sacrificed or wounded; and yet he had the time, the energy in public affairs which the heaviest and highest public duties can impose.

The results of life, of character, depend upon the springs thereof. Everywhere, the world over, in these weeks since McKinley died, men have bowed heavily with grief, and yet have lifted face and eyes heavenward with a stronger assurance of faith than perhaps ever before, because this man, so busy with the affairs of this world, yet held his heart at peace, having the "anchor of his soul both sure and steadfast within the heavenly veil." Even yet we hardly realize the gift to the religious sense, the quickening of spiritual desires, the recognition of the right

of human nature to the bread of life, and the water of life, which McKinley has given to this country.

"Out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh." We thought he lived in the glare of public life, but his true life was hid with Christ in God; for, when wounded, his thought was for others, and not one word of bitterness escaped him, only pity for his murderer, love for all, and trust in his God. The farewell words — "Goodbye all, goodbye. It is God's way. His will be done, not ours" — come to us as a benediction, leading us all into his own trust and faith, taking us to the very gates of the heavenly city, where we feel that he had the welcome home.

The hymns he loved will sing for us always, and I hope to the children after us — of aspiration and a greater longing for a personal sense of God, of trust in the Divine guidance.

McKinley said of Lincoln, "A noble manhood, nobly consecrated, never dies." Surely McKinley will live for us, and on through the generations, as the man who met every relation of life nobly; who knew and loved his God; who made a living truth of the Bible promise: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee."

Kate E. Putnam

Mr. McKinley's Political Career.

WHEN the last battle had been fought for freedom in our Republic, and the soldier had laid aside his rifle and his uniform for the garb of civil life, he could not at once settle down to the ordinary complaisant life of the man who thinks all will go well without his active interference in the affairs of the government. To the man who had fought, the country was a living entity to which he had pledged his cares and services, and since these were no longer needed in the field of war, he offered them in the field of politics. The result was an interest among the rank and file in political matters that had never been known before in the annals of our country.

To one of Mr. McKinley's temperament, it was inevitable that he should throw himself into what he considered the remaining duty of the hour, so one cannot be surprised that his first political speeches were in favor of negro suffrage. Giving the freedmen a vote was considered a political necessity at the time — the only way to keep the South subdued. Whether this was a mistake or not, the future historian will decide ; but to Mr. McKinley it appeared a self-evident truth, and he adopted the cause of negro franchise as his own.

Soon after, he was elected District Attorney, a position demanding a clear brain, undaunted courage, and the power to hold judgment in suspense until facts are demon-

strated. Holding this office is an admirable training for any other office in the gift of the people.

During Mr. Hayes' campaign for Governor, in 1875, Mr. McKinley made speeches for honest money and the resumption of specie payment, and was never again off the list as an effective political speaker.

In 1876, he was nominated for Congress, and elected thereto in a nominally Democratic district. He succeeded Mr. Garfield as a member of the Ways and Means Committee — the most important committee of the House — a position which made him leader of his party in the House. In 1888, he began the tariff discussion, which brought him most prominently before the country as a brilliant advocate of high tariff, and which ended in the passage of the bill bearing his name, so familiar to us all. In 1890, Mr. McKinley spoke in favor of sustaining the Civil Service Law, to which there was, and is, much opposition among politicians, saying, "The Republican party must take no step backward ; the merit system is here and is here to stay." In the same Congress he spoke and voted for the Eight Hour Law, and advocated an anti-trust and an anti-option law.

In 1891, he was a candidate for Governor of Ohio, and was elected by a large majority. In his first annual message he directed attention to the finances of the State, and enjoined economy in all expenses. He recommended additional safeguards for steam and electrical railroad employees. He was re-elected by a majority even larger

than he had at first received. During his second term, labor troubles arose, and crimes were committed for which lynchings were threatened; but Governor McKinley proclaimed that lynchings must not be tolerated in Ohio, thus quelling the mob instinct among decent men and saving his commonwealth from a foul blot on her fair fame.

Early in his political career, Mr. McKinley was mentioned as a probable candidate for the presidency. At the time Mr. Blaine in the presidential convention positively refused to be a candidate, the delegates began to name McKinley as their choice. He was himself a delegate-at-large from Ohio in the convention, and when he saw the movement to nominate him gaining power, he rose and said, "I cannot with honorable fidelity to John Sherman, who has trusted me in his cause and with his cause; I cannot consistently with my own views of personal integrity consent, or *seem* to consent, to permit my name to be used as a candidate before this convention. I do not request, I *demand* that no delegate who would not cast reflection upon me shall cast a ballot for me."

At the next presidential convention, in 1892, he was again a delegate, and was made chairman of the convention. Many of his friends wished him to become a candidate, but again he put his personal ambition away, saying that Harrison deserved the nomination, and requesting his friends to vote for Harrison. His surprise was great when at roll call Ohio responded by presenting his name. He at once challenged the vote from the chair and put

himself on record for Harrison. What old Roman, in the time of the great Republic, could or would have done more ?

When Mr. McKinley was elected President, he was the choice of the people as well as of the Electoral College, and accepted the position in thorough loyalty to the institutions of our country. As President, his conduct of the Spanish War and the various questions growing out of it brought us brilliantly through a time fraught with many dangers. His management of our foreign relations was so tactful and conservative as to inspire universal confidence in the peaceful intentions of the United States.

So far, we have seen Mr. McKinley as a clear-headed, high-minded, honorable politician ; but it was left for his second term as President to present the real nobleness of his nature. "Now," said he, "I can be President as I want to be President." He promptly, but unmistakably, put his foot on the third term hydra, and made a tour of the country, drawing all hearts to him by his loving interest in all that concerned his people. And it was in Buffalo, where he was welcomed as few have been welcomed, that his final word was to be said. He had long thought it over, and here, where so many nationalities were stretching forth their hands to him, he enunciated his broadest message to humanity : "God and man have linked nations together, no nation can longer be indifferent to any other,"— showing his last platform to have been the brotherhood of man.

Ada M. Kenyon.

McKinley.

AMONG the Presidents of these United States there have been many who have been strong, wise, and sometimes great ; but each in his own way and according to the laws of his own being.

Some, driven by the force of indomitable will, or an obstinate belief that theirs was the right and only way, have governed on occasion like dictators, have assumed somewhat autocratic powers, indifferent, in a measure, to the opinions of party or people. And many among their fellow citizens have looked upon such a course as admirable.

But the President whom we honor to-day had a far different way. Force and determination were not lacking in him, but they were mellowed by considerateness and sweet reasonableness of mind. From the beginning to the tragic end of his career, along all of the rising steps of distinction by which he climbed to be the great Executive we mourn, he seemed never to be solicitous concerning himself, his own will or idea, save as they might become the will or idea of the people. He believed not only in the right and authority of the people, but in their sense and judgment. He believed that *all* of the people knew more than any one of the people.

This deference to the public mind, which in a smaller man might have seemed small, which in an inferior man might have been demagogic, which might have been a limitation and a restriction to a weaker man, was in him an element of strength, for he exalted his method by the superiority of his own mind. President McKinley well knew that public opinion is fed from many sources, and to a great extent will be formed by the foolish if not formed by the wise. He would not constrain the reluctant, but he would instruct and guide the receptive; so he gave out his purposes, his desires, and shared them with the great commonalty; and then, like a wise sower, he waited for his thought to grow. He never grumbled or complained about the unpleasant meteorological conditions of the public mind. If clouds of criticism arose, if storms of abuse descended, they passed over him, leaving his temper serene, his countenance tranquil. And when the harvest of public approval came, he executed his own will, which had become the will of the people.

His silver speech, his golden silence, became not the sword but the wand of the conqueror. He was, indeed, as has well been said, "invincibly gentle"; but he was more and he was greater, he was gently invincible.

"Stern lawgiver! yet he wore
The Godhead's most benignant grace;
Nor know we anything so fair
As was the smile upon his face."

Only the noble die nobly. Only by the constant endeavor, from day to day, to practice the heavenly virtues are we enabled to die in peace. No magic formula of priest or prophet, applied at the last moment, can avail to fit or beautify us for the passage to the beyond.

A President, like a soldier, might well wish to die bravely and as befits one whom the nations honor. But dying takes from mortals all power to will. We become in that supreme moment only the instruments through which the thoughts and aspirations habitual with us express themselves. In the habitual attitude of President McKinley's well-ordered mind and spirit, in his constant subordination of his will to something he held higher than himself — the People, the Government, his Maker — we see the firm foundation on which was laid his power to die.

The resounding acclaims of a triumphant re-election still lingering in the air, facing with exalted ambitions the grandest opportunities of his career, in the twinkling of an eye he is cut down, and with instant submission accepts without a murmur the awful decree. His dying eyes pierce the veil, he sees that God has another way, and with unfaltering courage he utters the words so like those of the gentle Master on Calvary, which will ring in our souls forever.

What infinite blessing was granted us, that before he passed over the highway of our hearts to the heavenly shore he was permitted to bequeath those words as a priceless legacy to mankind.

Time, the unerring judge of the qualities of greatness, will decide his place on the honor roll of statesmen, on the scroll of fame. But it may be, who can tell? — it *may* be that President McKinley's greatest, his divinely-appointed, mission was to teach and exemplify by his life and death these needed lessons: to teach the strength of gentleness, the greatness of obedience; to teach the sacredness of the marriage vows by an example of such perfect conjugal duty and love as the world scarcely ever saw before; and, above all, to teach the waning faith of the world the sustaining power of simple, every-day religion, by the example of how it helped a world-honored statesman to die.

Martha Bruce Roberts

(Mrs. James A. Roberts.)

Buffalo Chapter, Daughters American Revolution.

AT the Annual Meeting of the Buffalo Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, held October the 18th, 1901, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted :

In view of the fact that since the reunion of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, held at "The Temple of Music," Pan-American Exposition, on Flag Day, D. A. R. Day, June the 14th, 1901, a terrible tragedy has been enacted there ; and we, the members of the Buffalo Chapter, in common with the whole Nation, have been called upon to mourn the death of our beloved and honored President, William McKinley ; and

WHEREAS, We deplore the means by which the deed was accomplished, therefore it is but meet that we should constitute this, the first Chapter meeting of the year, a Memorial Season, and give expression to, and here record, the love and grief in all our hearts : therefore, be it

Resolved, That we mourn with deep and sincere grief the great and true man who has been taken from us in the plenitude of his powers, William McKinley — Soldier, Statesman, President — the wise, firm, far-seeing leader and ruler ; the gracious and kindly man, stainless in life, and fearless in death.

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